

Annual Report 2009-2010



**ACTIVITIES OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010



About the Cover Image

"Work Can Wait. It's Time to Make Fairy Tea," by Diane Morrison-Robinson, Acrylic, 18" x 24", 2009

Diane created this beautiful painting as a commission for the Women's Work(s) Art Promotion and Fundraiser in 2009.

About the Artist

Diane Morrison-Robinson is an artist and art teacher from East Prince. She completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Mount Allison University in 1993. From there she attended Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University, where she met her husband, also an artist. Diane graduated in 1995 with her Bachelor of Art Education. In 1996 Diane and her husband headed to Asia to teach English for the next six years. While there she had the opportunity to see and experience the art of other cultures. In 2002, Diane moved back to Canada and began teaching at Westisle Composite High School. Since 2003, Diane has been creating her own art while teaching full time at Westisle. She works primarily in acrylic and watercolour, and her family and friends are the main subjects of her work. She is interested in exploring the small everyday moments that make life what it is. Diane currently resides in New Annan with her husband and two children, and she plans to continue developing her work and displaying it across Prince Edward Island.



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Advisory Council on the
Status of Women

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March 2011

Hon. Janice Sherry, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Sherry:

I am pleased to present you with the 2009–2010 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of Council's activities, publications, and collaborations with government from April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isabelle Christian".

Isabelle Christian, Chairperson

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



As Chair of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women, I am honoured to write a preface to the

Annual Report for the year 2009-2010. The year 2010 sets a milestone for the Council, marking thirty-five years since its beginnings in 1975. In women's equality work, much has changed, and much has remained the same over this time. Collaboration and cooperation are historical bywords of women's work and equality work. In this report, Council's 2009-10 collaborations are described under the heading of **Partnerships**.

A quick check of this section reveals that Council has been active with the community in more than twenty committees, task forces, and coalitions,

whose purposes are consistent with Council's mandate to support women's full and equal participation in all spheres of society. There are several prominent, often-overlapping themes: justice, safety and violence, education/awareness, poverty elimination, and women in government.

Sometimes, Council leads projects and partnerships. In 2009, the **Women's Work(s)** project came to a fruitful conclusion with a remarkable art exhibition and a successful auction. This project was initiated by Council to raise funds for Anderson House and to promote and create professional opportunities for Island women visual artists.

Most frequently, Council members or staff contribute to projects and partnerships led by others but in need of

active partners who can contribute gender perspectives, help bring recommendations and advice to government, or offer elbow grease, especially for community organizations that lack core funding for their work.

In the area of justice, Council has supported well-established and highly reputable community organizations with their important initiatives. For instance, Council has participated with the **Adventure Group** to positively impact the paths of women at risk of offending. It has assisted the **Community Legal Information Association** to create educational materials for youth. At a different level, Council has supported a small chapter of **LEAF**, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, a national organization that has intervened in landmark equality-related legal cases. Council is there, creating a

local presence for this critically underfunded resource.

Several community projects that focus on violence against women, relationship violence, and family violence intersect with the justice system. An innovative project entitled **Circles of Safety and Support** designed and tested a way of increasing protection of women who face extraordinary risk of relationship violence. Council is there in an advisory role. The **Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention** brings together government and community agencies to coordinate a provincial prevention strategy. Council is there as an active partner, providing resources on governance, and perspectives on violence against women.

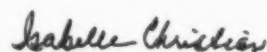
During 2009-10, Council has devoted its energies to poverty reduction, especially as part of the **Working Group**

for a Livable Income, a group which researches and advocates for a coordinated approach to eliminating poverty among PEI's most vulnerable citizens. Issues of housing, food security, income, and social inclusion each fall under the definition of livable income. Council is there, contributing research, gender-based analysis, and administrative help.

Council's involvement with community is not a one-way street. As this report states, "Council's policy development process relies on collaboration with and advice from organizations that are leading change on issues important to women and families." The nine-member Council draws on the individual insights of

women from across the province. In effect, partnerships feed directly into the Council's mandate to act as liaison between communities and government. Equality work on the ground takes the shape of committees, coalitions, and projects. Council is there.

As Chairperson, I especially want to thank all Council members and the staff for their untiring efforts to further women's equality in Prince Edward Island.



Isabelle Christian
Chairperson

ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mandate

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is a government-appointed provincial advisory agency made up of nine women who share a vision: respect and equality of opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion, wealth, or ability.

The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life. Over the years, the Council has

developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

The Advisory Council achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both the government and the community. The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*. This act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

Roles of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- serves as a community arm to the provincial government
- acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women on PEI
- conducts research on these identified concerns and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces, and community consultations to promote equality
- informs the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women about events and issues concerning women's equality
- works collaboratively with community organizations and government systems towards equality for all women
- initiates and participates in projects and events of benefit to Island women
- responds to enquiries from individuals, organizations, and government
- listens to women and validates their experience in understanding issues that affect them and their families
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women
- meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

Meetings

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated to meet at least four times per year.

At their meetings, Council members share their experiences, knowledge, and understanding of issues; they discuss and decide on policy priorities and recommendations to government; they meet with government officials or community organizations; or they invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis.

Council's strategic planning processes are ongoing. The goal of Council Planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that Council looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council Planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.

Advisory Council meetings, 2009-2010

- 104th meeting: May 5, 2009, Charlottetown, PEI
- 105th meeting: June 16, 2009, Stratford, PEI
- 106th meeting: October 27, 2010, Cornwall, PEI
- 107th meeting: December 4, 2009, Charlottetown, PEI
- 108th meeting: February 23, 2010, Charlottetown, PEI
- 109th meeting: March 11, 2010, St. Eleanors, PEI

Council Meeting highlights, 2009-2010

- *May 5, 2009, Charlottetown, PEI – Equality Report Card Workshop*
Council conducted a workshop to determine grades for government for the 2009 Equality Report Card. Council members pored over evidence provided by government and by community organizations and tested it against research and knowledge of Council members and staff. They reached consensus on draft grades for all areas.
- *June 16, 2009, Stratford, PEI – Equality Report Card Launch*
Radio, television, and print media joined Council members and representatives of community organizations, unions, and provincial and federal governments for the release of the 2009 Equality Report Card.
- *October 27, 2009 – Cornwall, PEI – Purple Ribbon Planning*
Council welcomed new member Marcia Enman to her first meeting. Council reviewed response to the 2009 Equality Report Card and spent the afternoon on interest-based visioning for the future of the Purple Ribbon Campaign as Council members pinned ribbons to information cards.
- *December 4, 2009 – Charlottetown, PEI – Montreal Massacre Memorial*
Council participated actively in Charlottetown's 20th anniversary memorial service for victims of the December 6, 1989, Montreal Massacre.
- *February 23, 2010 – Charlottetown, PEI – Early Child Development Consult*
Council members served as a focus group for Kathleen Flanagan, who was guiding the writing of an Early Childhood Development framework for PEI.

Council provided wide-ranging reflections on the importance of early childhood care and education for Island women and families. Council formally recognized the work of former Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty in a luncheon meeting with her.

- *March 11, 2010 – St. Eleanors, PEI – Consultation with Action Femme*
At lunch, Council held a useful consultation with representatives of the Acadian women's organization *Action Femme* about their activities and publications. Council members also prepared some preliminary comments from their communities about perceptions of the social assistance system for the Committee on Health, Social Development, and Seniors.

Members

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior

women. Women may now self-nominate for inclusion on Council through the "Participate in PEI" program.

Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms.

In June 2009, Executive Council confirmed re-appointment of Isabelle Christian as Chairperson and Andie Bulman as Vice-Chairperson. Council also welcomed the appointment of a new member, Marcia Enman.



Isabelle Christian, Stratford — Chairperson

Council term: June 13, 2006, to June 13, 2011

Chairperson's Term: January 29, 2008, to June 13, 2011

Isabelle Christian brings to Council her extensive experience as an educator in the school system and in adult learning and development, as well as a deep concern for the quality of women's lives. Her recent career has focused on finding ways to recognize and credit the skills and knowledge that adults acquire through non-formal learning. During 2010, she has been facilitating learning with older adults who wish to reintegrate into or remain in the labour force. Isabelle resides with her husband Gerard, in Stratford. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.



Andie Bulman, Charlottetown — Vice-Chairperson

Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2010

Vice-Chairperson's Term: June 13, 2009, to December 31, 2010

Andie Bulman of Charlottetown has been actively involved in equality work at the UPEI campus including involvement at the UPEI Women's Centre, coordination of the PEIACSW Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee at UPEI, and had organized an International Women's Day Concert Fundraiser where a female cast entertained and raised funds for the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.



Sadie MacKenzie, Montague — Treasurer

Council term: July 13, 2005, to December 31, 2010

Sadie MacKenzie of Montague worked in a nursing home for 22 years as a nursing attendant and activities coordinator. She was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and spent a term on Montague Town Council. She has three grown children. She currently works with the PEI Liquor Control Commission. She brings to Council her insight into the special challenges of women in abusive relationships in small Island communities.



Gwyn Davies, Gairloch — Member

Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2010

Gwyn Davies is dedicated to working for women and children experiencing violence and fear of violence. Gwyn is the Outreach Worker for Eastern PEI for Family Violence Prevention Services. She has been working in the field of violence prevention since 1985, at Anderson House and Outreach Services in Eastern PEI. Gwyn is a mother of three grown daughters. She lives with her husband in Gairloch, where they have a home-based business raising turkeys.



Susan Connolly, Breadalbane — Member

Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2010

Susan Connolly of Charlottetown is a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of Prince Edward Island. She practices Corporate and Commercial Law at Stewart McKelvey in Charlottetown.



Roseanne Sark, Summerside — Member

Council term: July 13, 2005, to December 31, 2010

Roseanne Sark, a member of the Lennox Island First Nation, is a Health Policy Analyst with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI.

Roseanne is a mother of two. She has a BA from Carleton University and is also certified with Reality Therapy. She has worked in the field of family violence prevention, research, recreation, cultural promotion and facilitation for various organizations including the Native Women's Association of Canada, Lennox Island First Nation, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Human Resources Development Canada and the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre. Over the years Roseanne has been part of numerous volunteer committees and executive boards.



Sister Norma Gallant, Wellington — Member

Council term: July 13, 2005, to December 31, 2010

Norma Gallant is a Francophone woman from the Evangeline area involved in issues related to equality locally, regionally, provincially, and nationally for 30 years. She has been involved with issues such as teen dating; elder abuse; equality for women and men in church ministries in the French sector; abuse and harassment in sports; assistance for women to prepare Victim Impact Statements; self-esteem. She does training in the Language of the Gifts of Character. She serves on the PEI Senior Citizens' Federation Board and presides on their Housing sub-committee, serves on the PEI Victim Services Advisory Committee, and works with the Evangeline Community Consultative group in Crime Prevention through Social Development.



Pauline Thomson, Canoe Cove — Member

Council term: January 29, 2009, to December 31, 2010

Pauline Thomson of Canoe Cove has worked as a child care specialist at the Anderson House Emergency Shelter and as a Kindergarten Program Supervisor at the Y.M.C.A. in Charlottetown. She was the International Volunteer of the Year (PEI) recipient (2001), and currently volunteers at the Hospice Palliative Care Unit - Prince Edward Home. She is a member of the Canoe Cove Women's Institute.



Marcia Enman, Wellington — Member

Council term: June 13, 2009, to June 13, 2012

Marcia Enman is the general manager and editor of *La Voix acadienne*, the only French-language newspaper on Prince Edward Island. She has been with the paper since 1978 and continues to work to develop the publication that serves the Acadian and Francophone community of PEI. Among her community and volunteer activities, Marcia is vice-president of *L'Association de la presse francophone* and is a village councillor for the Wellington Village Municipal Council. Marcia also sits on the Junior Achievement of PEI Board as a selection committee member. Marcia remains very interested in *Actions Femmes*, the francophone organization that represents views and works closely with the Acadian and francophone women on the Island and acts as a liaison between this group and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Marcia is a single mother of one daughter and lives in Wellington.

Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2009–2010. The Advisory Council hires one additional staff

member on contract for project coordination, especially the Purple Ribbon Campaign, and to cover leaves.



Lisa Murphy, Executive Director

Lisa joined Council staff in May 1990. She resigned as Director in May 2000 and was asked to return to directing Council in May 2004. She works full-time.



Jane Ledwell, Researcher/Policy Analyst

Jane worked on contract for Council from 2000 to 2001. She returned in June 2004 to work full-time in research and policy analysis. In November 2009, she began a maternity and parental leave. Baby Samuel Francis Ledwell MacInnis was born November 21, 2009.



Becky Tramley, Office Administrator

Becky joined Council in October 1986 and works part-time.



Sandy Kowalik

Sandy works on a contract basis at the Council as project support and Purple Ribbon Campaign coordinator. Until July 2009, she worked as artistic coordinator of the Women's Work(s) Art Promotion and Fundraiser project and after November 2009 assisted covering Jane's leave.

Staff Development

- Staff members Lisa Murphy and Jane Ledwell are both participating in the STEPS for Women training program in interest-based conflict resolution. Two dozen participants from organizations that work with vulnerable women across the Island are receiving training towards a certificate in conflict resolution. Each participant will also lead a project to share interest-based skills with vulnerable women. Courses offered as part of STEPS this year included the following:
 - Introduction to Interest-Based Conflict Resolution
 - At the End of Your Rope: Unravelling Your Role in Conflict Solving
 - Interest-Based Mediation
- Council completed a major update of Council and Staff Handbooks with comprehensive guidelines for policies and procedures. Staff piloted new procedures for staff evaluation.
- Lisa Murphy attended gender-based analysis training offered by Karen Craags, Diversity and Gender Equality, Inc., in Toronto from October 26-30.

National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian

Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from other regions of Canada.

List of Major Coalition Activities, 2009-2010

- The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women hosted the Coalition of Advisory Councils in Charlottetown October 22-23, 2009, for the Coalition's first ever meeting outside Ottawa. PEI representatives Isabelle Christian served as chairperson of the meeting, Lisa Murphy was host meeting coordinator, and Jane Ledwell acted as the meeting recorder.
- This year's Coalition meeting brought together representatives from Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The Coalition welcomed participation and a presentation from Christiane Pelchat, Présidente, Conseil du statut de la femme du Québec.
- Sessions included the following:

- sharing of innovative practices with representatives from Advisory Councils from other Provinces and Territories.
- a workshopping luncheon with PEI's Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hon. Valerie Docherty, and other invited guests, including other female PEI Members of the Legislative Assembly, a female band chief and other First Nations community leaders, current and former Chairpersons of the PEI Status of Women, Status of Women Council members, and leaders from community-based women's organizations. The luncheon also honoured Charlottetown lawyer Daphne Dumont, a recent recipient of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case.
- a presentation by Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Egmont (PEI) MP Gail Shea, about women in government.
- a presentation by Shylah Elliott from the Qullit Nunavut Council on the Women's Worlds 2011 event, to be hosted in Canada.
- discussion on Council-building questions such as Council-member engagement, building effective relationships between governments and Councils, and encouraging strong Councils in all provinces and territories.

POLICY AND RESEARCH

Equality Report Card

Since its inception, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has made recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. They have shared recommendations with government through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in Policy Guides, correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, both independently and in partnership with other equality-seeking organizations.

In June 2008, the Advisory Council published its pilot Equality Report Card to assess government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality in PEI. In June 2009, Council followed up with the release of a second Equality Report Card, based on a refined process. The next full Equality Report Card will be released in 2011, using results from 2009 as benchmarks. An interim trends report will be published in 2010 to indicate trends without assigning grades.

Equality Report Card preparation, to June 2009

- Council staff compiled information from questionnaire responses from all departments of government and from additional research and monitoring.

- Council staff provided a thorough summary of research to Council members.
- Council members determined draft grades through a workshop process. All Council members reviewed evidence provided by government and by Council staff and reached consensus on draft grades for all areas.
- Council staff compiled Council's comments from the workshop into a summary of analysis to accompany grades.
- Council staff shared draft grades and analysis with government and community for feedback, including updates, corrections, and discussion.
- Council members reviewed all the suggestions for changes from government and community before revising, finalizing, and releasing the grades.

Equality Report Card Release, June 2009

- The Equality Report Card was released on June 16, 2009, at a news conference during a Council meeting at Stratford Town Hall, Stratford.
- Overall Average Grade – C
 - Making Equality a Priority – C
 - Women in Decision-Making – C
 - Family Violence Prevention – B–
 - Women's Economic Status – D
 - Supports for Caregiving – C
 - Access to Justice – C+
 - Women's Health – C–

- Council representatives provided interviews to media including CBC television, K-Rock/Ocean 100, CFCY/Magic 93, and the *Guardian*. All media outlets received a news release.
- The final Equality Report Card in English and French versions was published to the Website following the launch. Council staff also sent notices about the publication to women's organizations in other parts of Canada.
- Council decided to move a two-year cycle for Report Cards in future and set out plans for an interim trends report to be developed for June 2010.

Preparation for the 2011 Equality Report Card

- Council staff mailed out 2011 Report Card priorities, grading criteria, and proposed timelines to ministers, deputy ministers, departmental representatives, and Council members.
- Council members and staff monitored media for government actions on priority areas. Public statements and published documents by government and media will form the basis for the 2010 interim trends report.
- Council Chairperson and staff presented a public lunch-and-learn event on the Report Card Process and Results on October 15 for Persons Day.

Other Research and Policy Work

In addition to developing the Equality Report Card and assessing the priority issues for action in that document, in 2009–2010, Council also submitted briefing documents to a number of public consultation processes that the government had initiated. Council's

submissions on these issues build on past policy recommendations to government. They are developed with consultation and approval of Council members and, whenever possible, with community organizations with a shared interest in the issue.

Highlights of Other Research and Policy Work, 2009–2010

- Consultation Paper on Land, Local Governance, and Rural Development (July 2009)
- Considering the Two-Tier Wage: Submission to the Consultation on Different Minimum Wage Rates (March 2010)
- Preparation, consultation, and research for a submission to the review of the Social Assistance Act, for publication in 2010 (March 2010)

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Enquiries and Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to enquiries from individuals, groups, and government on a variety of questions and issues. These range from requests for statistical information to referrals, crisis calls, and requests for advocacy. People make enquiries in person, by telephone, by e-mail, and by correspondence. Requests for information in crisis situations are often complex and often come from women who have unsuccessfully tried to get

information or service elsewhere. The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women; however, it offers support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual enquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

About Enquiries

- Requests for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be frequent. Relationship break-ups continue to be vulnerable times for women, with effects on their physical,

emotional, and financial safety and security. They report challenges negotiating property division, custody and access, debt problems, and child support issues. Women called Status of Women offices for advice on all kinds of same-sex/different-sex, common-law, dating relationship, and marital breakups. Women identified needs including access to legal aid, financial management and budgetting advice, safety planning, and support for legal agreements between partners before and/or after break-ups. Some of these needs are met by existing provincial programs and services; some are not.

- Enquiries related to concerns about provincial government laws, policies, or programs included concerns about access to abortion and funding for travel and the procedure; male-only hiring processes; sentencing perceived as light in sexual abuse cases; the requirement to select a gender-identifying "title" to apply for provincial government jobs; need for training for new careers for women leaving violence; problems with interprovincial enforcement of child support payments; lack of supports for grandparents who are raising their children's children; concern about possible exploitation of women in a tourism promotion; complaints against the College of Physicians and Surgeons; healthcare concerns such as perceived different treatment of women and men by medical professionals, long waits for mammograms, or need for support for disabled women's care; gaps in childcare services and subsidies, such as lack of after-hours care; issues with Employment Standards such as no protection against unfair/discriminatory dismissal during probationary periods

or lack of clarity on how to challenge possible wrongful dismissal; the need for women's shelters in rural communities; and the need for a provincial Ombudsperson.

- National and inter-provincial issues identified by callers included concerns about the behaviour of the federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and concerns for the rights of women in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- General enquiries covered issues including portrayal of women in various media; harassment of all kinds (sexual harassment, verbal harassment, cyber-harassment, harassment in workplaces and on boards of directors, public harassment of a female professional), and concerns about handling of and communications around a hockey player charged with assault.
- Referrals were frequently made to the PEI Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so.
- Referrals are sometimes made to the PEI Human Rights Commission. When possible, Council staff members offer support for women who need help completing documents for human rights cases. Women identified human rights being violated due to mental illness, age, gender, or disability.
- Referrals are made to Family Violence Prevention Services and the Rape and Sexual Assault Centre in cases where violence or sexual abuse/assault occur.
- Referrals are sometimes made to the PEI Business Women's Association. A growing number of calls are for information for or about women in business.

Media

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to media requests for comment and analysis on issues that affect the lives of women and families. Ordinarily, the approved spokespersons on behalf of

the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Researcher/Policy Analyst. For the first time in 2009–2010, the PEI Status of Women created its own video media releases for distribution through the Internet.

News Releases, 2009–2010

- Government Earns a C on 2009 Equality Report Card / Le gouvernement obtient un C sur la fiche de rendement de l'égalité 2009 (June 16)
- PEI Status of Women Praises National Award Winner (October 23)
- Coalition of Status of Women Councils Meets on National Issues / Les conseils sur la situation de la femme se rencontrent au sujet d'enjeux nationaux (October 28)
- 2009 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence (November 25)

Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2009–2010

- Twenty Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story (December 6)
- Celebrating Women of Courage (March 5)

News Conferences, 2009–2010

- Lisa emceed Victim Services Publications Release about services available to newcomers to PEI (April 30)
- Council hosted a Violence Prevention Week release of the video *Twenty Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story* (February 16)

Interview Requests, 2009–2010

- **CBC Radio:** background interview with Maritime Noon on child support issues (April 17); interview on Child Benefit clawback (October); Purple Ribbon launch/teachers' guide (November 26)
- **CBC TV:** changes to the minimum wage (September 30)
- **K-ROCK/Ocean Radio:** early childhood care and education (November)
- **The Guardian:** Smoke Free Places Act amendments (September 8); early childhood care and education (November)
- **Holland College:** Purple Ribbon Campaign (December 2)

Videos, 2009–2010

- *Equality Report Card 2009* (June 16) <http://vimeo.com/5181032>
- *Twenty Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story* (February) <http://vimeo.com/9444976>

Website

- Status of Women staff independently manages content of the ACSW Website.
- Whenever possible, news releases and publications are made available on-line at the Website as soon as they are released.
- The Advisory Council Website is available at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

Blog

- The ACSW set up a weblog in October 2007 at <http://peiacsw.wordpress.com>.
- From April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010:
 - Status of Women staff members added 100 new posts and pages.
 - People made over 13,200 visits to the blog – an average of just over 1,100 visits a month. Use has been building: in the first three months of 2010, the monthly average reached 1,500 visits.
 - The most visited individual page was the Equality Report Card page, with almost 700 visits. In total, Community Notices received about 2,300 visits, a large increase in use of this weekly service.
 - The most-used referring site was our main www.gov.pe.ca/acsw site. Other top referrers: postings on Facebook, Status of Women videos on vimeo.com, and sites for the Women's Work(s) project, the Lovely Witches Club, the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Women's Network PEI, the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, and websites for networks we are partners in.

Council Activities Updates

Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered over 700 by the end of the fiscal year. They receive *Activities Updates* and special Council publications and promotions.

The approximately 250 members of the electronic mailing list receive a weekly listing of community events and notices. These notices are also available to the general public through the Status of Women's blog: peiactsw.wordpress.com.

Activities Updates, 2009-2010

- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2009
- *Activities Update*, International Women's Day 2010

Mail-outs, 2009-2010

- Equality Report Card (July 2009 – to selected mailing list members)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign materials (November 2009)
- International Women's Day materials (February 2010)

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Meetings and Correspondence on Issues

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council.

Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence on issues of concern.

Selected Meetings, 2009–2010

- Council Chairperson and staff meetings with Hon. Valerie Docherty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (June 11, September 1); and with Hon. Janice Sherry, new Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (March 31)
- Phone, e-mail, and in-person consultations with the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (regular and ongoing)
- Executive Director briefing for Senator Catherine Callbeck (regular, in person and by phone)
- Check-ins with the Executive Director of Women's Network, and sometimes with staff (April 15, September 30)

- Meeting with representatives of the Canadian Federation of University Women (April 16)
- Meeting with UPSE leadership in follow-up to an issue about male-only job postings in the provincial civil service (May 12)
- Executive Director and staff meeting with Leader of the Official Opposition, and Opposition researcher (June 10)
- Executive Director meeting with Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy (July 22)
- Presentation on Purple Ribbon Campaign at Lacey House (November 3)
- Follow-up to Beyond Shelter Walls project, with YWCA (November 25)
- Presentation – Revenue Canada Employment Equity Committee (December 2)
- Presentation to UPSE regarding Purple Ribbon funding (February 2)
- Meeting with Deputy Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour and Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (February 8)
- Presentation to the John Howard Society to assist with their Report Card on Homelessness (March)

Selected Correspondence on Issues, 2009–2010

- Meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women are supported by a memorandum outlining issues and presenting analysis.
- An Orientation to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women was prepared for the new Minister Responsible, Janice Sherry, following her appointment.
- Letter to Minister Docherty re: location of needle exchange program (April 2)

- Submission to nominate a former Advisory Council member for the Order of Prince Edward Island (May)
- Letter of support for International Women's Day proposal (June 12)
- Letter to Eastern School District Board of Trustees to offer assistance with gender analysis (June 19)
- Letter of congratulations to Women's Institute for successful national conference (July 7)
- Letter to Health Minister Currie regarding abortion access (July 15)
- Letter of support for nomination for Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case (July 29)
- Letter of support for the Early Childhood Development Association advocating for transition supports with kindergarten entering public schools (February)

Selected Publications Consulted On, 2009-2010

- Publications for CLIA such as "Family Violence and the Law in PEI," "Sexual Assault," and "A Guide for Witnesses."
- Data and analysis reports from the Atlantic Seniors' Housing Research Alliance.

Community & Government Consultations

In 2007, Council members initiated formal community consultations, focusing on groups of women that work on behalf of rural women and women under-represented in provincial debate.

In addition, Council members requested and were granted additional funding to support them to meet more frequently, as a full Council, with elected officials in the province.

Community Consultations, 2009–2010

- **Consultation on Rural Issues, May/June, 2009**

Chairperson and staff consulted with twenty women from diverse walks of life about their views on land, local governance, and rural development. A Charlottetown consultation took place May 26, 2009. A Summerside session was planned but was cancelled in favour of telephone and e-mail consultation to accommodate the schedules of interested participants. Key questions were about what is particular in women's experience of land, governance, and rural development, and how government and its consultative processes could incorporate women's insights in the processes of the Commission on the Land and Local Governance and the Rural Development Strategy.

- **Consultation with Canadian Federation of University Women, April 2009**

Chairperson Isabelle Christian met with CFUW representatives as part of a meeting of local representatives with their district leader from Newfoundland.

- **Presentation to Eastern School District Board of Trustees, October 2009**
Researcher/Policy Analyst Jane Ledwell, with support from Council ED Lisa Murphy, made a presentation on gender and diversity analysis and women in government for the members of the Eastern School Board and following the presentation engaged in a question-and-answer session with trustees.

Government Consultations, 2009–2010

- **Presentation to Senior Managers of Dept. of Tourism, April 7, 2009**
Chairperson Isabelle Christian and staffperson Jane Ledwell made a presentation on gender-based analysis for senior managers of Tourism, in the context of the Equality Report Card.
- **Council Consultation on Early Childhood Development Strategy, February 2010** In February, Council ED Lisa Murphy did a stakeholder interview with Kathleen Flanagan, the consultant guiding the writing of an Early Childhood Development framework for PEI. At their February meeting, Council members and staff served as a focus group for Ms. Flanagan. Council provided wide-ranging reflections on the importance of early childhood care and education for Island women and families.

Events

Advisory Council members and staff participate in community-led events whenever possible. The Advisory Council's role at events is often to bring a gender and diversity perspective to the event: to share research and

perspectives on how the issues being discussed may affect women differently from men or positively or negatively affect diverse groups. Council representatives' special roles at events are noted where relevant.

Selected Events, 2009–2010

- Poverty Bites follow-up meeting to Poverty Eradication Workshop (April 22)
- Charlottetown Community Safety Council inaugural meeting (April 24)
- "Foundations Session" with NSAC Rural Research Centre (April 30)
- Victim Services publication release: Justice Services Available for Newcomers to PEI (April 30 – *Council ED as emcee*)
- PEI Cultural Forum (May 8)
- "Very interesting Persons" Breakfast for the VRC (May 9 – *Council researcher as a volunteer "VIP"*)
- Island Baby Fair (May 9)
- SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Regional Conference (May 16 – *Council researcher as a presenter on equality rights and violence against women*)

- Council of People with Disabilities Grand Opening (May 20)
- Atlantic Seniors' Housing Research Alliance Seniors' Housing Needs Conference (May 27-29, Halifax – *Council researcher as a policy workshop reporter*)
- Settlement to Retention – Bridging the Gap Population Secretariat Consultation (June 25)
- Sisters in Spirit Community Engagement Workshop (August 12)
- PEI Literacy Alliance Breakfast and Learn: Linking Literacy, Crime, Health, and Injury in Children and Youth (September 9)
- Provincial Reference Group on Gender-Based Analysis Workshop (September 10)
- Building Policy 4 the Social Economy Colloquium (Halifax, September 30 to October 2 – *Council researcher as a workshop "catalyst" presenter*)
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 4 – *Council Chairperson as a speaker*)
- Creating Positive Change in Our Communities: A Workshop for Women (October 16 – *Council researcher as co-facilitator for a workshop on "Demystifying Policy"*)
- Freezing for Warmth, PEI Native Council event (November – *Council Chairperson as a speaker*)
- Understanding Trauma and Building a Female Response (November 4)
- SAGE book launch: *Beyond Silence: Voices of Childhood Sexual Abuse* (November 5 – *Council ED as a speaker*)

- Early Child Development Association Rally for Early Childhood Education (November)
- Charlottetown Royalty Rotary Meeting (November 25 – *Purple Ribbon Coordinator there to accept a donation for the Purple Ribbon Campaign*)
- Summerside Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 6)
- PEI Business Women's Association Open House (January 22)
- Girls Unlimited Conference (February 15 – *Council ED as a steering committee member and workshop presenter*)
- Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence (February 18)
- Status of Women Canada news conference to announce funding (February 19)

Partnerships

Partnerships involve commitment to participate in the work of coalitions, task forces, research projects, and other community or collectively led activities. Council's policy development process relies on collaboration with and advice from organizations that are leading change on issues important to women and families. Sometimes, Council uses partnerships as a means of educating groups in the community about gender-

based analysis and women's experiences and perspectives. Participating actively as partners on projects is also an important way that the Advisory Council contributes to other community groups' ability to do their work: the Advisory Council has a responsibility to help press forward recommendations over the longer term for groups that have short-term or project-based funding.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2009-2010

- **Ad Hoc Provincial Human Rights Consultative Group:** Council's ED and/or Researcher/Policy Analyst sit on this occasional committee of provincial officials who contribute suggestions for PEI's reports on and reviews of various United Nations human rights conventions.
ACSW role: Providing input on women's rights as implicated under UN conventions; contributing to discussions regarding conventions including the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Adult Education Advisory Committee:** Council's Chairperson sits on this Holland College-led committee to provide advice on programs for adult education through the College.
ACSW role: Attending twice-yearly meetings and providing advice from a community and gender perspective on directions for adult education.
- **Atlantic Seniors' Housing Research Alliance:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on the Policy Working Group of this Mt. St. Vincent University-led community/university research alliance to look at seniors' housing needs.
ACSW role: Participating in monthly teleconferences and occasional local stakeholder meetings; contributing gender analysis and perspectives on seniors' housing issues; analyzing quantitative and qualitative data with policy implications; offering feedback, with a gender lens, on draft publications.
- **Circles of Safety and Support:** The Council ED sits on the advisory committee for this Status of Women Canada-funded project to create circles of community support and safety around identified women who face very serious risk of violence. The project also creates training opportunities for the volunteers who form the support circles.

ACSW role: Attending regular meetings; advising on project directions; assisting with graphic design; identifying potential participants in training; promoting the project and community participation in its activities.

- **CLIA Youth Justice Project:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst consulted with Community Legal Information Association by e-mail for the duration of this project to create publications for youth about aspects of the justice system.
ACSW role: Providing gender-focused editorial feedback on publications.
- **Community Safety Council:** Council's Executive Director was invited to take part in these meetings organized by Charlottetown City Council to enhance citizens' safety in Charlottetown, including preventing violence.
ACSW role: Providing gender analysis and linking the Safety Council's work to the Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention.
- **Elizabeth Fry Society:** Council staff helped to support a group seeking to establish a branch of the Elizabeth Fry Society on Prince Edward Island. Across Canada, these societies work with and for women and girls in the justice system, particularly those who are, or may be, criminalized. The group setting up on Prince Edward Island saw some barriers to getting established and decided to take smaller preliminary steps before regrouping formally.
ACSW role: The ACSW attended planning meetings and offered in-kind space and office support.

- **Gender-Based Analysis Advisory Committee:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst was appointed by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to sit on this committee to look at best practices and training opportunities for gender-based analysis within the provincial government. The Minister asked the Council Chairperson to sit on the Committee during the Researcher/Policy Analyst's leave. The Committee completed its mandated tasks early in 2010. *ACSW role:* Providing feedback on draft documents; providing information about Advisory Councils on the Status of Women in other parts of Canada; participating in an interest-based workshop with provincial reference group on GBA.
- **Girls Unlimited Planning Committee:** The Council's ED sat on the planning committee for this Women's Network-led project for events to increase self-esteem in girls, ages 10-14, and to work against early sexualization and oversexualization of girls. *ACSW role:* Attending meetings and events; assisting with planning for workshops and events; presenting a workshop for parents.
- **IWS Grant Adjudication Committee:** Council's ED sits on this committee to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women, with a preference to organizations that do not receive core funding.

ACSW role: Helping to design assessment tools; reviewing applications; helping the committee to decide on recommendations.

- **Justice Options for Women:** The Council ED serves on the advisory committee for this project, which creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice, in the context of justice options, for women victims of violence, as a necessary next step in encouraging and developing safe and effective responses to violence against women in PEI.
ACSW role: Participating in meetings to set directions and develop project plans and funding applications.
- **LEAF National and LEAF PEI (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund):** Council ED and staff provide continuity in the local link to LEAF, a leading national equality and legal-related organization. LEAF works towards ensuring the law guarantees substantive equality for all women in Canada and has since 1985 intervened in over 150 cases to help establish landmark legal victories for women on issues such as violence against women, sexual assault, workplace inequities, socio-economic rights, and reproductive freedoms.
ACSW role: Coordinating local meetings; providing in-kind supports to LEAF PEI as needed; providing annual update on PEI LEAF activities for national AGM; assisting with ED evaluation and selection for Leadership Awards; managing banking and communications; collaboratively developing project and funding applications; co-hosting events.

- **Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council ED (and, when possible, Purple Ribbon Coordinator) sit on this task force which works with the community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol.
ACSW role: Consulting, planning, and assisting with projects and public events; providing graphic design and content for signs, pins, decals, cards, and other materials.
- **Moving On, New Beginnings Project:** Council's ED is a liaison to this Adventure Group project for vulnerable women who may offend or reoffend.
ACSW role: Attending meetings; offering advice and support.
- **PEI Coalition for Women in Government:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst sits as a non-partisan member on this multi-partisan coalition that works to increase the number and proportion of women in elected positions in PEI.
ACSW role: Helping to develop and execute workplans; contributing to creating, polishing, and disseminating research, media work, and publications.
- **PEI Food Security Network:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst participates in this action and education network to improve Islanders' food security (access to adequate affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate and personally acceptable food within a food system that supports producers).

ACSW role: Participating in meetings, workshops, and events; contributing gender analysis; taking part in evaluation and priority-setting; serving on a Network working group; assisting with the Website; assisting with note-taking and reports as needed.

- **PEI Poverty Reduction Network:** Council's ED and Researcher/Policy Analyst sit on this Network, which came about following consultations on poverty initiated by Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy. The Network includes anti-poverty and equality-seeking community organizations, provincial and federal government representatives, labour groups, and business organizations. The Network aims to initiate projects and actions to reduce poverty on PEI. The network ceased to be formally active in 2010.

ACSW role: Participating in meetings; contributing analysis and perspectives on women's poverty on PEI; consulting and advising on proposed projects.

- **PEI Public Transit Coalition:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on the steering committee of this coalition to advocate for Island-wide public transit. *ACSW role:* Attending steering committee meetings; ensuring the Coalition maintains an understanding of gender and equality dimensions of transit issues; advising on projects and publications; participating in briefs to government; and promoting public transit.

- **PEI Working Group for a Livable Income:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to counter poverty and advocate for livable income for all Islanders. *ACSW role:* Participating in monthly meetings and occasional special events or presentations; developing recommendations to government on poverty elimination; contributing perspectives on women's poverty; taking minutes for meetings; taking our turn with other organizations to draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs to government.
- **Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention (PAC):** Council's Executive Director is appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating the implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy. *ACSW role:* Attending regular meetings of the full group and administrative group; assisting in providing direction for the five-year strategy; researching and writing for handbook, contributing to governance tools, especially tools and models for building consensus; advocating for a focus on violence against women and other gender and equality roots of violence;
- **Sisters in Spirit:** After attending a community engagement workshop, the ACSW's Purple Ribbon Coordinator was invited to join the organizing committee for Sisters in Spirit's October vigil event. *ACSW role:* Attending meetings, assisting with event planning and promotions; speaking at the vigil.

- **Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst is part of the PEI sub-node of this Mt. St. Vincent University-led community/university research alliance. The PEI group's focus is Empowerment and Inclusion, with an emphasis on gender.
ACSW role: Participating in regular meetings to allocate funding for local research; participating in the Network's learning events; reporting on Council's social economy-related projects and publications; acting as a partner on gender-related research projects proposed by equality-seeking groups that are part of the Network (offering letters of support, assisting with research design, providing editorial advice and services, and so on); contributing to conferences and publications.
- **STEPS:** The Council ED serves on the steering committee for this new project involving leaders from selected organizations who work with or on behalf of vulnerable female populations, to participate in a three-year training program on conflict resolution and initiate community projects.
ACSW role: Attending planning meetings and contributing to priority-setting; contributing graphic design, including a logo for visual identity.
- **Together in Courage Committee:** See *Leadership in Annual Events: International Women's Day* in this report.
- **Victim Services Advisory Committee:** Council's ED co-chairs this committee to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and

to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime.
ACSW role: Co-chairing committee; sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion; participating in media events (publication release).

- **Women's Work(s) Art Project Committee:** See *Community Liaison: Sponsored Events* in this report.

Sponsored Project: Women's Work(s)

Initiated by the Executive Director, the Advisory Council began work in 2008 as a sponsor of the Women's Work(s) Art Promotion and Fundraiser. In the first phase, Council members and staff offered institutional backing for volunteer Project Coordinator Dianne Porter's fundraising initiatives, which led to financial support for the project from major donors Sen. Catherine Callbeck, Patricia Schurman, and Anne Smith.

To celebrate women's art and women's work(s), the 2009 event showcased 40 jury-selected female visual artists of PEI, each of whom received a commission for art supplies to create a work on the theme of women's work. The women's 50 artistic creations were displayed in the concourse of the Confederation Centre of the Arts in July.

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

To raise funds, the art promotion culminated in a July 12, 2009, art auction fundraiser benefiting artists and raising funds for PEI Family Violence Prevention Services for the repairs and upgrades needed at Anderson House Women's Shelter.

The proceeds from the auction and an art raffle both supported women artists and raised thousands of dollars for Anderson House, and the project met its additional goals of increasing awareness of Anderson House and raising the profile of the Island's female artists and their work. More information about the Women's Work(s) project is still available online at womensworks.wordpress.com. This site received more than 10,000 visits in 2009.

Selected Council Activities in Support of Women's Work(s), 2009-2010

- The PEI Status of Women office served as a home base for project coordination, providing an in-kind donation of services including office space for the Artistic Coordinator, meeting space, telephone, printing and photocopying, computer and Internet access, and mailing address.
- Council staff offered advice and support for project development, the arts jurying process, event logistics, website support, graphic design, and communications and promotions.
- Council assisted in promoting Women's Work(s) in community notices and newsletters, and by linking to the Women's Work(s) website.
- Council members promoted the raffle and auction, and those who were able attended the exhibition opening and auction and offered their volunteer help during the week-long exhibition at Confederation Centre and at the auction.
- Council Chairperson Isabelle Christian spoke at the May 29th Artists' Reception, took a turn sitting with the show throughout the week of the exhibition, and represented the Council at the exhibition opening and auction.

LEADERSHIP IN ANNUAL EVENTS

Persons Day

October 18 each year recognizes the date that women in Canada were first acknowledged as "persons" under the law in 1929, after the efforts of

pioneering women. Being declared "persons" made women eligible for Senate appointments and other legal rights.

Highlights from Persons Day, 2009

- On October 15, Chairperson Isabelle Christian and Status of Women staffer Jane Ledwell co-presented a public Lunch and Learn, "2009 Equality Report Card Process and Results: Learnings for the Social Economy." The event was co-hosted with the Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network and took place at the University of Prince Edward Island. About 25 people participated in the event, including community members, university researchers, students, and MLA Cynthia Dunsford.
- During the meeting in Charlottetown of the National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women, the PEI Status of Women hosted a workshopping luncheon with PEI's Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hon. Valerie Docherty, and other invited guests,

including other female PEI Members of the Legislative Assembly, a female band chief and other First Nations community leaders, current and former Chairpersons of the PEI Status of Women, Status of Women Council members, and leaders from community-based women's organizations.

- The luncheon also honoured Charlottetown lawyer Daphne Dumont, a recent recipient of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in the effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with facts and statistics about family

violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also organizes a noontime December 6 Memorial Service in Charlottetown.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2009

- **Theme:** *20 Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story*
- **Number of ribbons/cards distributed:** 24,000 bilingual information cards
- **Research:** One-time funding from the Interministerial Women's Secretariat enabled research into the many activities undertaken in PEI during the last two decades to help end violence against women, as well as research into the circumstances of the murders of eight women in PEI since 1989.
- **Publications:** Research and a new initiative to create a guide for teachers to use with classroom curriculum led to the following special resources to mark 20 years since the Montreal Massacre of December 6, 1989:

- VIDEO 20 Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story
- PROFILE Women Murdered on PEI: 1989-2009
- OVERVIEW of Violence Against Women Prevention Activities on PEI: 1989 to 2009
- COMMISSIONED POEM "For Montreal," December 2009, by Tanya Davis
- SPEECH from the 2009 Montreal Massacre Memorial: The PEI Story, presented by Purple Ribbon Coordinator Sandy Kowalik
- OP-ED for December 6, 2009, by Chairperson Isabelle Christian
- TEACHERS GUIDE with curriculum connections to Grade 7 Social Studies and resources on the topic of violence against women
- HANDOUTS: Background on the Purple Ribbon Campaign, 20 Ways Young People Can Help End Violence, and Charting Changes for Women and Men Over 20 Years
- **Memorial Service:** The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on Friday, December 4, in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. About 200 people attended the Charlottetown noontime service.
 - Isabelle Christian, chair of the ACSW, co-emceed the event with ACSW council member Sister Norma Gallant.
 - Participants in the service included Tanya Davis, an Island singer-songwriter, presenting her commissioned performance, Sandy

Kowalik presenting a summary of research highlights. David Morrison provided lovely piano music.

- Candle-lighters included Premier Robert Ghiz, Hon Valerie Docherty, RCMP, City police, and members of equality-seeking groups.
- Eileen Leclair, from UPSE's Equality Committee, brought "Silent Witnesses" to the event. These powerful silhouettes represent PEI women who have been violently murdered.
- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Premier Robert Ghiz, PEI Teachers' Federation, Federated Women's Institutes of PEI, Quilting B & More, City of Charlottetown, City of Summerside, Town of Stratford, Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty, PEI Nurses' Union, Hon. Shawn Murphy, Hon. Wayne Easter, Senator Percy Downe, Senator Catherine Callbeck, Senator Libbe Hubley, PEI Interministerial Women's Secretariat, Hearts and Flowers Florist, Island Media Arts Co-op, David Morrison, and Confederation Centre of the Arts.
- Special efforts to contribute to the Campaign this year came from PEI Women's Institutes, who pinned over 6,000 ribbons and helped promote the Campaign in the media; Canada World Youth participants Annie Desmarais-Therrien (Quebec) and Jessica Gorgeous Abanga (Ghana); super-volunteer Francis Handrahan, who once again pinned thousands of ribbons; and the

staff at Anderson House. Many others across the Island pinned ribbons to cards and distributed them to schools, churches, businesses and workplaces.

Family Violence Prevention Week 2010

- The Council Chairperson and staff hosted a news conference during Family Violence Prevention Week to release the video *Twenty Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story*. This took place at the Advisory Council office on February 16.
- Staff participated in the Walk of Silence for Victims of Violence from Province House to City Hall (February 18).

International Women's Day – March 8

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8 each year. Events on International Women's Day and throughout the week surrounding it recognize the ongoing struggle of women for equity, locally and globally. Often, International Women's Day events and education focus on women's

equality in the workplace, since IWD's roots are in the labour movement. For IWD 2010, Council again joined with other grassroots organizations in the Together in Courage Committee, which coordinated events. Council representatives play a special role in graphic design for publications and in event promotion.

Highlights from International Women's Day, 2010

- ACSW staff participated with the other members of the Together in Courage Committee to plan and put on a celebration in Charlottetown.
- This standing-room only event took place on Saturday, March 6, at The Guild and was emceed by Lisa Murphy. Events included team trivia, lots of prizes, music by Ruth Mathiang, and a social.
- Isabelle Christian published an op-ed, "Celebrating Women of Courage," including reflections on women's equality and the 2010 Olympics.
- Council promoted IWD events through a mailout and electronically on the ACSW website, blog, and electronic mailing list.

Bursaries for Women

Each year, the Advisory Council awards three bursaries for post-secondary education. The first and second of these bursaries go to two women to help them continue their studies at the University of Prince Edward Island and Holland College. The third bursary, named for

late Council vice-chairperson Inge Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada. UPEI independently administers an Engineering bursary. Next year, in 2010, a bursary will also be offered for a student at the Collège de l'Acadie.

Bursary Recipients, 2009

- University of Prince Edward Island Bursary: Melissa Stordy
- Holland College Bursary: Toby Peardon Spencer
- Inge Blackett Bursary: No applicants this year
- PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Engineering Bursary: Bethany Hughes

PUBLICATIONS LIST

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned above. These publications are usually available in hard copy from the Advisory Council or in electronic copy on its Website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

- **Considering the Two-Tier Wage** (March 2010). *A submission to the Standing Committee on Community and Intergovernmental Affairs consultation on Different Minimum Wage Rates.*
- **20 Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story** (February 2010). *Special resources and research publications to mark 20 years since the Montreal Massacre of December 6, 1989. Resources include*
 - *The video "20 Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story," available at <http://vimeo.com/9444976>*
 - *A profile of women murdered on PEI, 1989-2009*
 - *An overview of violence against women prevention activities on PEI, 1989 to 2009*
 - *The commissioned poem and performance "For Montreal," December 2009, by Tanya Davis*

- **Purple Ribbon Campaign 2009 Resource Guide for PEI Teachers** (November 2009). *A four-page guide for teachers for use with the 2009 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence and the 20th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. Includes handouts for teachers and students:*
 - *Background on the Purple Ribbon Campaign*
 - *20 Ways Young People Can Help End Violence*
 - *20 Years: Timeline of Violence and Prevention on PEI*
 - *Charting Changes for Women and Men over 20 Years*
 - *1989-2009: Victims of Violence*
- **2009 Equality Report Card / Fiche de rendement de l'égalité 2009** (June 2009). *An assessment of government's progress towards women's equality goals on Prince Edward Island.*
 - *See also the Video News Release on the 2009 Equality Report Card. A five-minute multimedia overview of the Equality Report Card results for 2009, available at <http://vimeo.com/5181032>*
- **Consultation Paper on Land, Local Governance, and Rural Development** (July 2009). *A summary of community consultations on issues affecting rural Prince Edward Island women, prepared for presentation to the Commission on the Land and Local Governance and to the Advisory Council for the Rural Development Strategy.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUDITOR GENERAL
CHIEF OF REVENUE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2010 and the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by Council's management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.


Dean MacArthur, CMA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
May 17, 2010

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN		
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
MARCH 31, 2010		
	2010	2009
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$5,630	\$4,150
Accounts receivable	731	000
Prepaid expenses	3,632	5,380
	<u>\$9,993</u>	<u>\$9,530</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$9,723	7,819
Deferred revenue	—	380
	<u>\$9,723</u>	<u>\$8,199</u>
Net assets	<u>270</u>	<u>(1,669)</u>
	<u>\$9,723</u>	<u>\$9,530</u>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL,

Chairperson: André Gaudet
IN FULL COUNCIL

Member: John A. Gaudet
John A. Gaudet

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN		
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010		
	2010	2009
Revenues		
Provincial contributions - Item 4	\$107,000	\$106,000
Program revenues	0,000	0,100
Other	—	1,912
	<u>\$107,000</u>	<u>\$108,012</u>
Expenses		
Administration	13,404	14,734
Contracts	10,309	32,100
Council meetings/business	33,779	32,900
Equipment - Item 2	5,339	5,134
Materials and supplies	7,914	7,781
Salaries and benefits	141,780	133,300
	<u>\$212,525</u>	<u>\$226,949</u>
Excess revenues for the year	1,475	2,863
Net assets, beginning of year	(1,669)	(1,669)
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$1,173</u>	<u>(1,669)</u>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2019

1. Purpose of the Organization

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural and political spheres of life. The Council is a non taxable entity under the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

2. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Revenue recognition

The Council follows the deferred method of accounting for grants and other contributions. Revenues are recognized when earned.

Expense recognition

Expenses are recognized using the accrual basis of accounting.

Capital assets

The Council's capital assets include office furniture and equipment. Capital assets are expensed when acquired.

3. Financial Instruments

All financial instruments reported on the balance sheet of the Council are classified as follows:

Cash - held for trading
Accounts receivable - Loans and receivables
Accounts payable - Other liabilities

Due to their nature, all financial instruments are considered to be carried at amounts which approximate their fair value.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2018

4. Financial Contributions

Provincial grants of \$207,000 (2017 - \$198,000) include an operating grant of \$198,000 (2017 - \$198,000) and other provincial grants totaling \$10,000 (2017 - \$10,000).

The Province of PEI has assumed responsibility for the rental cost of the Council's office. The cost and related expenses have not been reflected in the Council's financial statements.

5. Equipment Lease

A photocopier is leased until October 15, 2019 and the annual lease commitments are \$2,000 plus applicable taxes.

6. Pension Costs

Employees of the Council are members of the Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Plan, which is a defined benefit plan. The pension plan obligation is a liability of the Province and no liability for these costs have been accrued by the Council as March 31, 2018.

7. Statement of Cash Flows

A statement of cash flows has not been prepared as the required cash flow information is readily apparent from the other information included in these financial statements.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

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